

Meet Your Farmer

Country Cousins Farm



**VISIT THE FARM STAND:
29415 FULTS ROAD, EVANS MILLS**

Raw Milk • Beef • Eggs
Soap • Honey • Pork Cuts • Hand Carved Toys

The Horning Family Welcomes you!

Stan and Sharon Horning named their farm Country Cousins to capture the feeling they wanted to share with their community - the feeling that coming out to their farm is like visiting your family.

This feeling was visible when Stan showed me around their dairy barn and a little black kitten ran up to be held. Throughout our entire conversation it sat in Stan's arms, purring.





THE LEGACY OF DAIRY FARMING IN THE NORTH COUNTRY:

Son Derek and his wife Beth will carry on the family farm after Stan and Sharon retire.

Country Cousins is home to 120 heads of cattle, each with their own name, chosen by members of the Horning family. Stan shares the different personalities of the cows as we walk past each of them and explains what it's like to be a dairy farmer in the North Country.

A typical day for Stan starts with waking up at 4am with his son Derek to feed and milk the cows. The cows are fed a blend of hay and corn which is grown on the Horning's farm over the summer, then stored for winter feeding. The cows are milked twice a day and each cow gives an average of 72 pounds of milk per day. After milking and feeding, it's time for the Hornings to eat their own breakfast and then afterwards, if they are lucky, Stan shares, they will each get a little nap before the rest of the day is filled with chores and maintenance during the winter and planting and cropping during the summer.

Stan shares some of the greatest challenges and changes they've seen on the farm over the past few years as we stand in the fragrant hay loft that still smells like the summer despite seeing our breath fog in the 11-degree air. As we look out the window we see the younger cows enjoying the wintery snow having grown thicker, fluffier coats to keep warm and as we descend into the warmth of the barn, Stan describes having to coax them in out of the snow. Some of the challenges Stan shares are the increasing regulations put on small family farms that make it difficult for small farms like Country Cousins that are family owned and operated.

The spirit of community the Hornings have worked to cultivate means in addition to their own grown products, you can also find products from neighboring farms such as eggs, soap, pork cuts, honey, and hand-carved toys.



Visit
www.countrycousinsfarm.com,
Country Cousins Farm on Facebook,
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